

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 06523 281129Z

47

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9756

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: SECOND ROUND OF UNIFIED LOCAL ELECTIONS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY: ON APRIL 27, CONSERVATIVES WON TWO UPPER HOUSE BY-ELECTIONS AND DOMINATED IN SECOND ROUND OF UNIFIED LOCAL ELCTIONS. RESULTS HAVE LITTLE MEANING FOR NATIONAL LEVEL POLITICS AND PRIME MINISTER MIKI'S STANDING. EMD SUMMARY.

1. LDP CANDIDATES GAINED EASY VICTORIES IN TWO HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS BY -ELECTIONS HELD APRIL 27. FORMER JUSTICE MINISTER YUICHI KORI (73) WON IN IBARAKI PREFECTURE, AND ISAMU FUKUI (71) WON IN AICHI PREFECTURE. AS RESULT, PART LINEUPS IN UPPER HOUSE ARE: LDP (130), JSP (61), KOMEITO (24), JCP (20) DSP (10), NIIN CLUB (4) AND INDEPENDENTS (3) --TOTAL (252).

2. IN SECOND ROUND OF UNIFIED LOCAL ELECTIONS HELD SAME DAY, CONSERVATIVES APPEAR TO HAVE HELD THEIR OWN. WITH VOTE COUNTING STILL UNDERWAY, LDP AND CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATES HAVE WON 101 MAYORAL CONTESTS, REFORMISTS HAVE TAKEN 22 AND UNAFFILIATED

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 06523 281129Z

INDEPENDENTS HAVE GAINED 12. THIS COOOOUNTS FOR 135

OF 165 MAYORAL RACES. MOST SIGNIFICANT REFORMIST VICTORIES CAME IN NIIGATA AND OITA, BUT CONSERVATIVES GAINED IMPORTANT OFFSET WITH TURN-AROUND IN KAGOSHIMA. FINAL RESULTS SEEM LIKELY TO PRODUCE LITTLE THREAT TO CONSERVATIVE DOMINANCE IN MAYORAL POSTS AND IN CITY AND VILLAGE ASSEMBLY SEATS.

3. COMMENT: PRESSES SEE SOME MEANING IN FACT DSP TEAMED UP WITH LDP 26, LARGELY VICTORIOUS MAYORAL RACES. WE SEE LESS MEANING, HOWEVER SINCE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WERE VIRTUALLY ALL INCUMBENTS ANYWAY. TWO UPPER HOUSE WINS SLIGHTLY IMPROVE LDP MAJORITY IN THAT BODY (NOW 8 SEATS), BUT, BEYOND THAT, SUNDAY'S ELECTION OUTCOME WILL HAVE LITTLE OR NO IMPACT ON NATIONAL POLITICS AND IN NO WAY, FOR GOOD OR ILL, INFLUENCE PRIME MINISTER MIKI'S STANDING. END COMMENT.
HODGSON

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